

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGUI 00322 231451Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 PER-01 A-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OES-03 IO-11 ISO-00 /081 W

----- 089291

R 231101Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6709

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0322

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, CT, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S BILATERAL WITH PRESIDENT BOKASSA

REF: A.NBANGUI 0321 (NOTAL) B. STATE 031490

1. IN COURSE OF VERY FRIENDLY HALF-HOUR CONVERSATION FOLLOWING MY CREDENTIALS CEREMONY IN LATE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 20 AT PRESIDENTIAL "PALACE", PRESIDENT BOKASSA RETURNED REPEATEDLY TO THEME OF HIGH IMPORTANCE HIS GOVERNMENT AND HE PERSONALLY ATTACH TO FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH UNITED STATES. BOKASSA SAID HE PLACED CAR FRIENDSHIP WITH US ON SAME PLANE AS THAT WITH FRANCE WITH WHICH HE HAS CUSTOMARILY PRIDED HIMSELF AS ENJOYING SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP.

2. BOKASSA PARTICULARLY PRAISED WORK OF PEACE CORPS IN CAR. HE ALSO LAUNDED AMERICAN SATELLITE WHICH DISCOVERED "BANGUI MAGNETIC ANOMALY". BOKASSA SAID THAT AS RESULT INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY HAD BEGUN TO FOCUS ATTENTION OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CAR'S MINERAL RESOURCES. A FORM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE EFFORT WAS TAKING FORM AND WOULD EVENTUALLY ENABLE CAR TO EXPLOIT THESE DEPOSITS. SINCE US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TEAM VISIT,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGUI 00322 231451Z

GERMAN GEOLOGISOS HAD ARRIVED. SWISS AND JAPANESE GEOLOGICAL TEAMS

WERE ALSO SOON EXPECTED TO MAKE STUDIES IN THE ANOMALY ZONE.

3. BOKASSA SAID THAT HE WAS EXHAUSTED FROM HIS HEAVY SCHEDULE THIS WEEK. BESIDES THE GERMAN GEOLOGICAL TEAM, HE HAD RECEIVED FRENCH COOPERATION MINISTER DE LIEPKOWSKY, TWO AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES OF SAUDI ARABIAN TRIAD NATIONAL RESOURCES LIMITED, AND NUMEROUS "COUNTS AND COUNTESSSES" ALL OF WHOM WERE HERE AT HIS REQUEST TO LOOK INTO INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES. THIS LED BOKASSA TO COMMENT THAT LIKE HIS UNCLE, CAR FOUNDER-PRESIDENT BOGANDAWA SO ALSO HE HAD DONE HIS BEST TO FREE CAR FROM UNDER-DEVELOPMENT. THE BALANCE SHEET FOR HIS FIRST TEN YEARS IN POWER WAS NOT BAD, HE ASSERTED. I WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS SOME OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN COURSE OF WEEKEND ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH CELEBRATION OF HIS 55TH BIRTHDAY. THESE WOULD INCLUDE DEDICATION OF BOALI II HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WHICH WOULD DOUBLE CAR'S ELECTRICAL OUTPUT, NEW 400-SEAT INDOOR SPORTS "OMNI-STADIUM", AND A HOSPITAL SHIP TO SERVE RIVERINE VILLAGES IN THE INACCESSIBLE FOREST AREAS. THESE HE REMARKED WERE ACCOMPLISHMENTS MADE IN SPITE OF "WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS" WHICH HAD SERIOUSLY DISADVANTAGED DEVELOPING NATIONS SUCH AS CAR. AT ROOT OF CRISIS WAS ARAB PETROLEUM POLICY AND DISPUTE OVER ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

4. TURNING TO FOREIGN POLICY, BOKASSA SAID CAR AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES WERE IDENTICAL WITH THOSE OF US, FRANCE, THEN FRG, THE UK, BELGIUM, CANADA AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS. HE HEWED FAMILIAR, ANTI-COMMUNIST LINE SPICING HIS REMARKS WITH CRITICISM OF SOVIET ANGOLAN POLICY.

5. BOKASSA SAID THAT WITHOUT HIS OUTSPOKEN STAND AT SPECIAL ADDIS ABABA SUMMIT ON 10-12 JANUARY MPLA WOULD HAVE GAINED ADMISSION TO OAU. ALTHOUGH HE THEN FRANKLY ADMITTED "IT'S ALL OVER NOW" AS REGARDS ANGOLA, BOKASSA LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PRECIPITIOUS CHANGE IN CAR POLICY OF NON-RECOGNITION OF MPLA REGIME UNLESS AND UNTIL ZAIRE ARRIVED AT SOME SORT OF ARRANGEMENT WITH MPLA-LDD ANGOLA.

6. MUCH OF WHAT BOKASSA HAD TO SAY SEEMED TO REFLECT NOT SO MUCH WORKLOAD PRESSURE OR CONCERN WITH ANGOLA AS NAGGING PRE-OCCUPATION WITH FEBRUARY 3 COUP D'ETAT ATTEMPT WHICH HE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGUI 00322 231451Z

RECOUNTED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL TO ME. HE EXPRESSED EXTREME REGRET AT NOT BEING ABLE TO VISIT HIS "GREAT FRIEND", PRESIDENT FORD, IN COMING MONTHS DUE TO NECESSITY OF GETTING BETTER HANDLE ON "INTERNAL SITUATION", IN WAKE OF COUP ATTEMPT. I SAID THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WAS INDEED UNFORTUNATE AS ALL ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR THE MEETING AND PRESIDENT FORD HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HIM.

7. AT NO POINT DID BOKASSA MENTION OR EVEN ALLUDE TO GOCAR CHARGES AGAINST CIA AND FSL CALDO. NOR WAS THERE ANY APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE IT DIRECTLY MYSELF AS ENTIRE CABINET WAS PRESENT AT POST-CREDENTIALS MEETING. HOWEVER, CONSISTENT WITH HIS MOST RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS, BOKASSA HIMSELF MADE POINT OF OUTLINING HIS CONCEPT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WHICH HE SAID WAS BASED ON BELIEF OF INDISPENSABILITY OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER SOVEREIGN STATES. WITH THIS OPENING I DREW ON TALKING POINTS IN STATE 037490 TO SAY THAT THIS WAS EXACTLY US POSITION. WITH OBVIOUS ALLUSION TO RECENT EVENTS I ASSURED BOKASSA THAT US HAD NEVER MEDDLED INTO CAR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND THAT HE COULD BE CERTAIN THAT WE HAD NO INTENTION OF CHANGING THIS POLICY NOW. POINT WAS NOT LOST ON BOKASSA. I PLAN TO PURSUE THIS ISSUE FURTHER IN MY NEXT CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT WHICH I HOPE CAN TAKE PLACE IN NEXT WEEK OR SO.

8. IN GENERAL I FOUND PRESIDENT AFFABLE, IF SOMEWHAT PREOCCUPIED, AND ANXIOUS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS CONTINUED DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH USG. OBVIOUSLY OUR ABILITY TO RESPOND WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT HE EFFECTIVELY PROVES ALLEGATIONS OF USG INVOLVEMENT IN COUP ATTEMPT. MY FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE THAT GOCAR IS USING CIA RUSE TO DETRACT PUBLIC ATTENTION AWAY FROM DOMESTIC CAUSES OF COUP ATTEMPT. BOKASSA WITH HIS INIMICAL AFRICAN LOGIC APPEARS TO HAVE DRAWN DISTINCTION BETWEEN CIA AND USG. HE MAY NOT HAVE REALIZED THAT GOCAR INSINUATIONS ABOUT CIA COUP INVOLVEMENT CAN AFFECT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. I AM HOPEFUL, HOWEVER, THAT ISSUE WILL NOW BE ALLOWED TO FADE AWAY.

QUAINTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGUI00322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760067-0388
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760225/aaaaavew.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGUI 321
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 FEB 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S BILATERAL WITH PRESIDENT BOKASSA
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, CT, US, (BOKASSA, JEAN BEDEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006